32. Mr. K. M. Ibarhim.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether any coercive steps have been taken to collect the tolls in the above question and how they intend to justify such steps in these days of acute economic depression?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Coercive steps have not been taken in the collection of tolls by the Public Works Department or by the Ernakulam Municipality. The Mattancheri Municipality has issued warrants but they are kept under abeyance at the request of parties.

Inspection fee for boats.

33. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have noted the facts that the inspection fee for the motor and steam boats is Rs. 50 per year, irrespective of the size of the boat and how they intend to explain the lack of 'proportion in the taxation'?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The inspection fee is not fixed irrespective of the size of the boats. Rs. 50 per year is the minimum fee and that is intended for vessels of less than 100 tons. Higher rates are fixed for boats of larger size.

Level of welfare—towns and villages.

34. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Government be pleased to state how they intend to bridge the gap between the level of welfare of our towns and villages?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—All possible steps are being taken by the various departments of the State to improve the level of the welfare of the villages.

Rate of consumption—representative Cochinite.

35. Mr. K.M. Ibrahim.—Will the Government be pleased to indicate the rate of consumption of a representative Cochinite for each of the last 10 years?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.— The question is not clear.

Luxury—upper classes—and poverty—masses.

36. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that only the upper bourgeois and feudal layers of our population get sufficient

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nourishment and that the upper strata of our population are being drowned in luxury while the great masses of the people are kept below the line of bare existence and how they intend to remove this obvious structural flaw and injustice?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—The Government have had no occasion to look into the question but some such disparity is inevitable in the very nature of things in the present state of society. They do not at present intend to do anything to remove it.

Growth of trade.

37. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Government be pleased to show the rate of growth of our Foreign trade for each year of the last one decade?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Government regret that statistics are not available.

Municipal tolls on boats.

38. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Government be pleased to state with reference to a foregoing question regarding 'Unjustifiable Municipal Tolls', whether any Court of Law in Cochin has pronounced against the said Municipal exactions and if it has whether it was not unlawful for the Cochin Municipality to take coercive steps for realising the same?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The matter is sub-judice.

Trees tapped for sweet toddy.

39. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to inform:—

(a) the number of trees annually tapped for sweet toddy in the last 10 years; and

(b) what steps have been taken by the Government to encourage and develop jaggery making from sweet toddy in the State?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—

Year.	Cocoanut.	Sago.	Palmyra.	Total.
1098	7,490	7,991	5,919	21,400
1099	6,258	8,211	7,729	2,21,698
1100	6,193	7,687	8,480	22,360
1101	6,015	8,495	8,105	22,615
1102	6,520	11,731	12,133	30,384
1103	7,267	12,956	13,084	33,307

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